



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 30, 2008

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

FROM: Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Weekly E-Newsletter

IN THIS REPORT:

- **Emmett teacher wins \$25,000 national teaching award**
- **Grants for afterschool programs now available**
- **Superintendent's Schedule**
- **What's New**
- **What's Happening in Our Schools?**
- **Reminders**
- **Upcoming Deadlines**

EMMETT TEACHER WINS \$25,000 NATIONAL TEACHING AWARD ([GO TO TOP](#))

A teacher at Kenneth J. Carberry Intermediate School in Emmett received the 2008 Milken Educator Award for Idaho during a surprise assembly Wednesday afternoon.

Jon Bennetts, a fourth-grade teacher at Carberry Intermediate School in the Emmett School District, won the \$25,000 prestigious award from the Milken Family Foundation for his dedicated work to raise student achievement in the classroom. He also receives an all-expenses-paid trip to Los Angeles to participate in the Milken National Education Conference focused on solutions to America's pressing challenges in education today.

"I am honored to present this award to Jon Bennetts for his hard work each and every day in the classroom and his continued dedication to Idaho students," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna. "Mr. Bennetts is a role model to the students he teaches and a representative of the great teachers we have here in Idaho."

Bennetts' identity was kept secret until Superintendent Luna announced the award during an assembly at Carberry Intermediate School on Wednesday afternoon. Since Carberry Intermediate is the only NASA Explorer School in Idaho and one of only a handful around the nation, former Idaho teacher and astronaut Barbara Morgan helped present the award.

"I just want to say thank you to the Milken Family Foundation. This will inspire me to learn more and to do the best job that I can do. That is what is important to me," Bennetts said after receiving the award.

As a member of the school's NASA Explorer Team, Bennetts promotes math, science and technology through engaging, hands-on activities. He sponsored the Mars Rover Team two years in a row, working long hours after school to help students design a Mars Rover for entry into competition. He also involves parents by helping to coordinate



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

several NASA Family Nights each year. In May 2007, Bennetts coordinated a live downlink conversation with an astronaut on the International Space Station, during which he and his students asked her questions while the school and community watched. Bennetts makes every lesson engaging by incorporating entertaining, personal, relevant stories into his standards-based lessons, relating projects on Idaho history to students' hobbies, and showing real-world examples of equipment and supplies from the Old West during Pioneer Day. Bennetts' hard work in the classroom has helped his student scores on the statewide standardized assessment grow every year, especially among students with limited English proficiency and students from low-income families.

He is now one of 10 educators in Idaho who have received the prestigious Milken Educator Award since Idaho joined the Milken program in 2003. More than 2,300 educators have received the award nationwide.

The Milken Family Foundation was established in 1982 to discover and advance inventive and effective ways of helping people help themselves and those around them lead productive and satisfying lives. The Foundation advances this mission primarily through its work in education and medical research.

GRANTS FOR AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS NOW AVAILABLE (GO TO TOP)

The State Department of Education will award \$1.25 million in grants to assist afterschool programs across the state in the upcoming 2009-2010 school year. Now is the time for school districts and other organizations to apply.

The funding is available through the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program, which is designed to provide academic enrichment opportunities, art, music, recreation, sports, drug and violence prevention and youth development activities to youth during non-school hours. The State Department of Education currently funds 71 afterschool centers throughout the state, which serve a total of 13,462 Idaho youth.

"The 21st Century Community Learning Centers programs provide critical academic and social enrichment for students after school," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna. "This is a great opportunity for Idaho communities to provide quality, structured programming for youth during the time of day when they need it most."

School districts, municipalities, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations and private corporations can apply for these grants. Successful applications will receive funding for up to five years. Grant applications are due **January 30, 2008** and successful application will be notified by April 30, 2008.

Those considering applying for funding are strongly encouraged to attend a Bidder's Workshop. The following workshops have been scheduled for interested applicants:

- Thursday, November 6: Twin Falls School District Office, 201 Main Ave W, Twin Falls, 1-3 p.m.
- Friday, November 7: Pocatello Alameda Center, Band Room, 845 McKinley, Pocatello, 9-11 a.m.
- Friday, November 14: Mid Town Center, 1505 N 5th Street, Coeur d'Alene, 9-11 a.m.
- Thursday, November 20: Nampa School District Board Room, 619 S Canyon, Nampa, 9-11 a.m.



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

All workshops are free. To register for the workshops or view the grant application, please visit the Department's web site at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cc/c/grants.htm> or call (208) 332-6960. Participants are expected to download and review the application prior to the workshop.

If you need more information, please contact Matt McCarter, Program Coordinator, or Camille McCashland, Program Specialist, at (208) 332-6960 or CMcCashland@sde.idaho.gov.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will attend the Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force meeting on Friday, November 7 in Boise.

WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force webinar** -- The final public meeting to present the initial recommendations of the Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force was held this week, but you can still listen and make comments. The webinar has been archived on the Idaho Live web site at the following link: http://67.202.210.70/launcher.cgi?room=SDE_Teacher_Performance_Eval_2008_1029_1810_35. After listening to the webinar, please visit www.sde.idaho.gov and click on the "Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force" link to submit your comments. Please submit comments by **November 6, 2008** because the task force will meet on November 7.
- **School Improvement Webinar** -- The State Department of Education hosted a webinar workshop on the research-based system of school organization called the 3-Tier Model this week. In case you missed it, the webinar has been archived on the IdahoLive web site at the following links:
For elementary: http://67.202.210.70/launcher.cgi?room=SDE_IdahoBuildingCapacitypro_2008_1028_1214_12
For secondary: http://67.202.210.70/launcher.cgi?room=SDE_IdahoBuildingCapacitypro_2008_1028_1707_12
- **Parent Leadership Training** -- A free one-day Parent Leadership Training will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 22 at the Idaho Education Association offices, 620 N. 6th Street, Boise. This is a training for parents or staff who want to increase parent involvement in the community or in their work and who are interested in building parent leaders. The deadline to register is November 7, 2008. For more information, please contact Shelli Hansen or Roger Sherman at (208) 386-9317 or e-mail hansenm2@dhw.idaho.gov.
- **Lincoln Bicentennial posters** -- The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission (ALBC) is offering a free teaching resource poster to teachers nationwide. The goal is to increase awareness of the Bicentennial and to provide educators with ideas to engage students in learning about Abraham Lincoln's legacy. If you are interested in requesting posters for your school, please contact Lauren Maxwell with ALBC at lmax@loc.gov.
- **EOP and Vulnerability Assessment Seminars** -- The State Department of Education is hosting an Emergency Operations Planning (EOP) and Vulnerability Assessment Seminar for Idaho schools and educational stakeholders. This seminar is provided in partnership with Meridex Corporation, the SDE's safety and security contractor, and is



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

a key component to Superintendent Luna's priority to make Idaho schools safer. The information in this seminar is directly informed by the vulnerabilities identified through the Safe Schools Assessment conducted last year by the SDE. Here is more information on the seminars:

- **November 6, 2008 in Coeur d'Alene:** 7:45am to 4:00pm at the CdA Police Department Training Room, 3818 Schrieber Way.
- **November 7, 2008 in Lewiston:** 7:45am to 4:00pm at Lewis & Clark State College, Administration Building (6th street), Room 203.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to cmccashland@sde.idaho.gov. Please include your name, school district / organization and which EOP seminar you would like to attend. There is no cost to participate.

- **School Immunization Module** -- The IRIS School Immunization Module is a free statewide system that will reduce time spent collecting and managing immunization records. The IRIS School Module gives school personnel special access to the Immunization Reminder Information System (IRIS), Idaho's voluntary immunization registry. This module will allow schools to not only view immunization records in IRIS, but also add records and create school-specific reports. Starting in Fall 2009, the Idaho School Immunization Report can be completed using the IRIS School Module. The Idaho School Immunization Report is required to be completed annually by all Idaho schools with students enrolled in kindergarten, first, or seventh grade. To learn more or enroll in the IRIS School Module, visit the "Schools" section of the IRIS homepage at <https://iris.idaho.gov>.
- **Free youth suicide prevention training** -- Idaho State University is sponsoring a free youth suicide prevention trainings. The training session includes warning signs of mental illness in youth, risk and protective factors for suicide and practical information on how to talk to youth who are at risk. Seating is limited, so register early. For more information, contact Marsha Tracy at preventsuicide@isu.edu or (208) 373.1799. The trainings will be held from 8 a.m. to noon on the following dates:
 - January 22, 2009 in Garden City
 - February 3, 2009 in Twin Falls
 - March 3, 2009 in Sandpoint
 - April 8, 2009 in Idaho Falls

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS (GO TO TOP)

This is a new feature that will appear in the Weekly E-Newsletter from the State Department of Education. It is an opportunity for us to share the great things that are happening in Idaho's public schools on a statewide level. If you have something great happening in your school, please e-mail it to Melissa McGrath at MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov with "What's Happening in Our Schools" in the subject line.

This week's highlight in on... Jerome Middle School

On November 12, the Gifted Program of the Jerome School District and special guest Astronaut and former Idaho teacher Barbara Morgan will dedicate an educational wind turbine at Jerome Middle School. The wind turbine will be used to help all students learn about wind energy through hands-on, engaging activities. The dedication will be held at 9:30 a.m. on November 12, 2008 at Jerome Middle School.



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **ELD Math and Science Standards workshop** -- The State Department of Education, in conjunction with WestEd, is hosting ELD Math and Science Standards Workshops aimed at training math and science teachers at the elementary, middle, and high school level to train other teachers in assisting LEP students with excelling in math and science. Each district is strongly encouraged to bring a math and science instructor, an ESL/bilingual instructor and administrator to these trainer-of-trainer workshops. To register for a workshop, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/forms/eld/>. Here is the schedule of workshops, which will all be held from 8 a.m. to noon:
 - Nampa: November 4, 2008 at the Nampa Civic Center
 - Twin Falls: November 20, 2008 at College of Southern Idaho's Herrett Center
 - Idaho Falls: November 21, 2008 at Eastern Idaho Technical College's Alexander D. Creek BuildingIf you are traveling from northern Idaho please contact Tyrel Trainor, Administrative Assistant Title III/LEP, at (208) 332-6942 or tstrainor@sde.idaho.gov so he can arrange to pay for travel to the Idaho Falls or Nampa workshops.
- **Education News Parents Can Use** -- The U.S. Department of Education hosts a regular TV series about ways to ensure children's educational success. The next "Education News Parents Can Use" broadcast, focusing on costs of higher education and federal aid programs, is scheduled for November 18, 2008 (8 p.m. ET). For more information, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/edtv/>.
- **Attendance and Enrollment reporting deadlines** -- The attendance and enrollment first reporting period ends Friday, November 7, 2008 and all attendance and enrollment reports are due to the State Department of Education on November 14, 2008. If you need assistance in submitting your reports or have questions on attendance and enrollment reporting, please contact Greg Berg Coordinator Public School Finance at: GDBerg@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Comment on proposed changes to school social worker endorsement** -- The Professional Standards Commission is seeking comments on proposed changes to the School Social Workers Standards and Endorsement. The proposed changes are posted on the State Department of Education web site. To learn more, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/forms/socialworkers/>.
- **We Are Family Conference** -- The 2009 We Are Family Conference for Idahoans with disabilities and their families will be held January 13-16, 2009 in Boise. The conference is sponsored by the Idaho State Independent Living Council, Idaho Parents Unlimited and the Idaho Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. For more information, please visit <http://www.silc.idaho.gov/>.
- **Lincoln Bicentennial** -- Schools have several opportunities to take part in the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial celebration. Here are some of the ways in which schools can participate: collect Pennies for Lincoln, enter the Abraham Lincoln Essay Contest, access the available lesson plans, participate in a teacher seminar, view the Lincoln Traveling Museum Exhibit. Visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/social_studies/ to learn more.
- **Virtues Conference 2008** -- Northwest Nazarene University and the Idaho ASCD invite teachers, counselors and administrators to participate in the Virtues conference, which will be held November 20-21, 2008 on the NNU



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

campus in Nampa. Inspiring speakers and founders of The Virtues Project Linda Kavelin Popov and Dr. Dan Popov will help you create a school environment that includes: student leadership, stress reduction for test fatigue, creating an environment for academic excellence, a 90-day plan for positive change and ways to transform classroom and school violence to virtues. Visit <http://www.nnu.edu/virtues> to register.

- **ASVAB** -- The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) program is one way to help students identify a future career path. The ASVAB program is a comprehensive career exploration and planning program that includes a multiple-aptitude test battery, interest inventory and various career planning tools designed to help the student explore the world of work. The program is free of charge. Please consider using ASVAB in your school or school district. For more information, you can contact: David Hodson, at (208) 334-1450 ext. 213 or david.a.hodson@mepcom.army.mil or Colleen Owen at (208) 334-1450 ext.214 or colleen.owen@mepcom.army.mil. Schools in Northern Idaho, north of New Meadows should call Fred Bernize at (509) 353 3105 ext. 242 or fred.bernize@mepcom.army.mil.
- **Early Years 2008 conference** – The Early Years 2008 conference will be held November 18-19, 2008 at Boise State University for parents and early childhood professionals from an array of disciplines. The conference will highlight the many interrelated aspects of growth that impact a child's development. For more information or to register, please visit www.idahochild.org.

UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **Oct. 31, 2008** -- The deadline for Idaho schools and districts to apply for the Idaho Building Capacity Project. For more information, please visit <http://csi.boisestate.edu/Page471.htm>.
- **Oct. 31, 2008** -- The deadline to submit applications for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. These awards, presented nationwide by Prudential Financial Inc., in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), honor outstanding community service by young people in grades 5 through 12. Please visit www.prudential.com/spirit or at www.principals.org/prudential for more details.
- **Oct. 31, 2008** – The deadline for school districts and charter schools to submit the 2007-2008 IFARMS Annual Financial Report as required by Idaho Code 33-701(7). The IFARMS Annual Financial Report forms and supporting documents can be found on the School Finance website at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance_tech/. Once on the website, go to Forms (far left side) and then select IFARMS Financial Reports Forms, Memos and Supporting Documents. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or JOberle@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Oct. 31, 2008** – The deadline to submit materials for the U.S. Senate Youth Program. Each year, two outstanding student leaders from Idaho are selected as delegates to the program where they will travel to Washington, D.C. with all expenses paid and view their federal government in action, meet with national leaders on Capitol Hill, at the White House, the Supreme Court, the Pentagon and the State Department. Each student also receives a one-time \$5,000 undergraduate college scholarship from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Salazar at (208) 332-6974.



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

- **Oct. 31, 2008** -- The deadline to submit applications for Northwest Professional Educators Teachers Scholarships and Classroom Mini-Grants. Awards range from \$200 to \$500. All educators are eligible. See www.nwpe.org for an application.
- **Nov. 1, 2008** -- The deadline for Native American students in Idaho to apply for the Columbia River Professional Chapter, American Indian Science & Engineering Society's annual college/university scholarships. Plans are to award two at \$1,000 each. Applicants must be Native American and residing in Oregon, Washington, or Idaho. For more details and to download an application form, visit www.aiesescrc.org and click on the "Scholarships" link.
- **Nov. 3, 2008** -- The deadline to submit applications for the third annual BubbleWrap® Competition for Young Inventors, sponsored by the Sealed Air Corporation and The National Museum of Education. The contest is open to students in grades 5-8. This innovative contest incorporates national and state academic standards in the fields of engineering design, problem-solving, entrepreneurship and all of the core curricular subjects. Visit www.nmoe.org for more details about the competition. Applications may be received via hard copy mail, email or FAX. If you have further questions, please contact the National Museum of Education at info@nmoe.org or (330) 376-8300.
- **Nov. 7, 2008** -- The deadline for elementary schools to apply for a chance to receive one of ten \$15,000 grants from the makers of Hidden Valley® Salad Dressings. Each grant award will support an elementary school in developing a program offering fresh vegetables and fruits lasting through the 2009-10 school year. Each school grant will consist of \$15,000 in direct funding, and a one-time donation of Hidden Valley® Original Ranch® Light Dressing. Funding must be spent on any of the following: Fresh produce, a vegetable station, kitchen equipment, program staffing, nutrition education supplies and/or training. All proposals must be submitted online at www.LoveYourVeggiesGrants.org.
- **Nov. 10, 2008** -- The deadline for school districts and charter schools to submit the 2007-2008 Independent Audit Report. Idaho Code 33-701(6), which requires submission of the independent audit report, was modified during the 2008 Legislative Session. Not only was the due date changed from October 15 to November 10, but penalties for late submission were also added. If the SDE has not received your report on or before November 10, your November 15 foundation payment may be withheld until the report is received. Please work with your auditor and school board to ensure submission prior to November 10. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Nov. 14, 2008** -- **The deadline to apply for the** National Excellence in Urban Education Award. The award recognizes the dedication and talent of urban school educators and students, provides a benchmark of excellence that motivates reform efforts and deepens the knowledge base of best practices for promoting urban school transformation. For more information or to apply, please visit <http://www.ncust.org>.
- **Nov. 17, 2008** -- The deadline to submit an application to become a Capacity Builder for the Idaho Building Capacity Project. For more information, please visit <http://csi.boisestate.edu/Page471.htm>.
- **Nov. 28, 2008** -- The deadline to enter into the Council for America's First Freedom's 16th annual First Freedom Student Competition. The competition is a national essay contest that offers students in grades 9-12 an opportunity to compete for a \$3,000, \$1,500 or \$750 award as they examine the First Amendment and the history and relevance of religious freedom in America and the world today. For more information on this competition, please visit



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

www.firstfreedom.org. Registration is due by Monday, November 24, 2008, and the postmark entry deadline is November 28, 2008.

- **Dec. 1, 2008** -- The deadline to complete Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 and Subpart 1 Surveys. Please visit the following web sites to access the surveys:
 - Title I, Part D, Subpart 1 <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/neglected/Online/StateSurvey.asp>
 - Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/neglected/Online/LocalSurvey.asp>
- **Dec. 1, 2008** -- The deadline to submit entries for the Idaho section of the American Nuclear Society and Idaho National Laboratory's 2008 Southeastern Idaho High School Essay Contest, which is open to students in 9-12 grades. The essay topic is to discuss nuclear energy and its implications for lowering atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions that have been linked to global climate change. For more information, please visit http://local.ans.org/idaho/ans/News/Entries/2008/12/1_Idaho_ANS_Essay_Contest.html.
- **Dec. 4, 2008** -- The deadline to submit Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certificate requests. If you have questions, please contact Cina Oravez at (208) 332-6936 or CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov. Please submit complete application packets to Cina Oravez, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to that date. You can mail applications to:
State Department of Education
ATTN: Cina Oravez
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027
Boise, ID 83720-0027
- **Dec. 5, 2008** -- The deadline to nominate a teacher for the Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year Award, which will be given to educators who demonstrate exemplary efforts to help parents and children achieve their academic and non-academic goals. Please visit <http://www.famlit.org/toyotateacher> for nomination guidelines.
- **Dec. 8, 2008** -- The deadline for school to apply for the National School or District of Character award by the Character Education Partnership (CEP). The purpose of the award is to honor these exemplars and facilitate their leadership in the field of character education. Visit www.character.org/nsoc for more information.
- **Dec. 12, 2008** -- The deadline to register for the National Geographic Bee. The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography. For complete information on the Bee, visit www.nationalgeographic.com/geographicbee.
- **Dec. 31, 2008** -- The deadline to submit applications for Northwest Professional Educators \$250 New Classroom Start-Up Grants. Teachers who are new to the profession, their grade level or school district are eligible to apply. See www.nwpe.org for an application.
- **Jan. 13, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship, which is a paid fellowship for K-12 math, science, and technology teachers. Einstein Fellows spend a school year in Washington,



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

DC serving in a federal agency or on Capitol Hill. Visit www.trianglecoalition.org/ein.htm to learn more or to apply online.

- **Jan. 20, 2008** -- The deadline for students to enter the C-SPAN "StudentCam" national video documentary competition, which is open to middle school and high school students (grades 6-12). This year C-SPAN asks students to create a 5- to 8-minute video documentary that addresses an issue of national significance. For more information, please visit www.studentcam.org. If you have any questions, e-mail emartin@c-span.org or call (800) 523-7586.
- **Jan. 30, 2009** – The Idaho Dropout Summit has been scheduled at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. More details to come.